

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

Monthly Report -- Seoul Bureau

FROM:

Chief, Operations Group

EXTENSION

NO.

DATE

December 1987

STAT

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

1.

C/Ops

23 Jan

B

2.

3.

C/E&PS

26 Jan

J

4.

DD/FBIS

1/27

G

5.

~~D/FBIS~~

6.

7.

PO/RA

1/28

Om

8.

SA/CD

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9.

10.

C/AS

11.

12.

C/AG

1

13.

Admin Staff

14.

C/B&F

15.

Exec. Reg.

FORM
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610

USE PREVIOUS
EDITIONS

GPO : 1983 O - 411-632



EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE
SEOUL BUREAU



6 January 1988
FBIS-5600-88

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service
THROUGH: Chief, Operations Group
SUBJECT: Monthly Report -- Seoul Bureau -- December 1987

I. GENERAL

A. On 16 December a record 89.2 percent of the eligible voters in South Korea turned out to make the ruling party candidate, No Tae-u, the first popularly chosen president-elect in the 40 year history of the Republic. Although No garnered only 36.6 percent of the vote, he had a 2 million vote margin over runner-up Kim Yong-sam. The surprising development caused shock among the opposition ranks, with consequent charges of "massive" voter fraud. Radical students and dissidents took to the streets in several cities around the Republic, notably Seoul and Kwangju, to protest the alleged vote rigging, but after a week of demonstrations, including the obligatory hurling of molotov cocktails and clashes with riot police, it became evident that calls to nullify the election did not enjoy the widespread support of the population that the June pro-democracy demonstrations had. During the course of the demonstrations the U.S. Cultural Center in Kwangju was firebombed, with only minor damage, and an anonymous caller threatened to blow it up. By the year-end holidays the demonstrations had died down, although dissidents and opposition figures promised to continue them into the new year.

B. With the furor over the presidential election diminishing, ROK-U.S. trade friction is warming up. On 30 December several hundred livestock farmers, protesting U.S. demands that the ROK increase beef imports, demonstrated at the Sejong Cultural Center across the street from the Embassy. The demonstration, visible from the Bureau, was broken up by riot police firing tear gas when the protestors attempted to approach the Embassy. About 50 demonstrators were taken away by police, according to reports.

C. Northwest Airlines announced that it had reached an agreement with its local employees, thus ending a 3-month suspension of service. Northwest said it would resume service in January. Meanwhile, Delta

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Airlines announced it would begin service between Portland, Oregon and Seoul, making it the third U.S. carrier serving Seoul.

II. OPERATIONS

A. Editorial/Monitorial

1. The Bureau extended its operations to 24 hours on 16 and 17 December to cover the Republic's presidential election and the aftermath. The Bureau kept Seoul's two television stations on open watch during this period. KBS and MBC stayed on the air throughout the night to report the election returns. The Bureau provided embassy consumers with 8 hours of videotaped footage of television coverage of the returns to aid in their review of election rigging charges. Along with the two television stations, the independent Christian Broadcasting System Network radio was put on open watch. The radio provided the quickest and most detailed reports of the election-rigging charges. Headquarters offered its "thanks and congratulations" for the "outstanding effort."

2. Okinawa Bureau Japanese/Korean monitor [] ended his TDY at the Bureau on 18 December. [] provided much-needed assistance during the South Korean presidential election campaign during which, among numerous other items, the Bureau texted each of the four leading contenders' five 20-minute televised campaign speeches.

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3. In North-South developments, the North's initial reaction to the South Korean presidential election was that there had been an "unprecedented" level of fraud. Its clandestine transmitter the Voice of National Salvation said the election was "null and void," echoing opposition statements in the South. In several statements and press commentaries, the North also protested its innocence regarding the "disappearance" of KAL flight 858, labeling the South's charges as "slander" aimed at helping No Tae-u's campaign and criticizing Japan and Bahrain for acquiescing in the South's extradition of the surviving suspect in the case.

4. After several days of improved reception on the two new frequencies used by the North's clandestine Voice of National Salvation, reception deteriorated to previous levels of monitorability due to interference. On 2 December the South Korean National Democratic Front, which is responsible for the radio, issued a statement protesting the South's "jamming" of VNS.

5. The Bureau checked a new clandestine radio, "The Voice of the People" on 3912 kHz, in response to a BBC request. Interference was quite strong, but the material that could be identified seemed to indicate that the transmitter was a South Korean counterpart to the North's Voice of National Salvation.

6. In response to an AG request for "expeditious processing" of Beijing CPC Secretary Li Ximing's report to the municipal CPC Congress,

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the Chinese unit texted the report in 24 takes within 3 days of its receipt at the Bureau.

B. Lateral Services

1. AG provided the Ambassador with an update on DPRK personalities associated with the Rangoon bombing in response to a request related to the KAL flight 858 incident.

2. Bureau relayed a request from a local military consumer for FBIS reports on the KAL 858 incident to other FBIS Bureaus. The consumer, Bill Donovan of J-2, indicated that FBIS reports were his primary source on the incident, and expressed appreciation for PRC and USSR media reports.

3. Bureau concluded its reporting on Seoul stock market activity, begun in response to a Headquarters request, with the close of the year's trading on 26 December.

4. The Bureau provide^d a complete country-wide breakdown of the South Korean presidential election returns in response to a request from a Headquarters consumer.

5. In response to a request from the U.S. Consulate General in Shenyang, the Bureau agreed to begin filing items from Changchun, Harbin, and Shenyang radios to the Consulate on 1 January.

6. Bureau processed one item from Pyongyang in Korean to South Korea at the request of a local military consumer.

C. Technical

1. The Bureau received the following equipment from Headquarters:

one Extel Comscribe IIIC printer s/n 90356; one Bramco model 5520 digital transmitter s/n 002; one Bramco 5510 digital receiver s/n 003; twelve Delta model srmc 2x4/tnf multicouplers, s/n 17, 18, 21, 33, 39, 47, 60, 61, 93, 95, 130, and 139; six model 7108-dr-5 coaxial switches s/n 14236, 18902, 19999, 20000, 20009, and 29290.

2. On 15 December the Bureau conducted a modem test with Okinawa Bureau. Although the Bureaus were able to communicate, the transmission of a test message failed, indicating the need for further practice after regional engineer returns from his Stateside R&R.

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3. At 2359 GMT on 31 December the Bureau switched off its Autodin equipment, thus ending its MODE V circuit backup. Although the Taegu Automated Switching Center indicated that the circuit would still be operable until the papers directing that the circuit be disconnected arrived, the Bureau has no plans to use it, relying instead on the Telex until final plans on the international direct dial modem backup are made.

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III. ADMINISTRATION

Personnel

1. Korean Unit Chief [] was released from the hospital and is now at home recuperating from stomach surgery.

2. Okinawa Bureau Japanese/Korean monitor [] departed on 19 December upon completion of his 7-week TDY to assist in coverage of the South Korean presidential election campaign.

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IV. VISITS

A. Okinawa Bureau Chief [] visited the Bureau from 9-12 December to discuss coordination and for talks with the Embassy Immigration and Naturalization Service Officer.

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B. [] AG China analyst, visited the Bureau from 16-19 December following his TDY in China.

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Chief, Seoul Bureau

Attachment:

Monthly Production Report

cc: Chief, Okinawa Bureau
Chief, Hong Kong Bureau

Seoul Bureau Production Report for December 1987

I. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH: 679590
 TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH: 162710
 TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH: 1837

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
II. INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE: (minutes or issues per week)	13685.00 min.	5510.00 min.	127.69 issues

III. OUTPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE:
 (publishable words per month)

CHINA

Beijing International Service in Korean	1300		
Beijing City Service in Mandarin	300		
Changchun Jilin Provincial Service in Mandarin	8460		
Harbin Heilongjiang Provincial Service in Mandarin	7530		
Hohhot Nei Monggol Regional Service in Mandarin	13410		
Jinan Shandong Provincial Service in Mandarin	16930		
Shenyang Liaoning Provincial Service in Mandarin	9380		
Shijiazhuang Hebei Provincial Service in Mandarin	2870		
Tianjin City Service in Mandarin	2970		
Beijing BEIJING RIBAO in Chinese			34760
Changchun JILIN RIBAO in Chinese			50
Harbin HEILONGJIANG RIBAO in Chinese			0
Jinan DAZHONG RIBAO in Chinese			200
Shenyang DONGBEI JINGJI BAO in Chinese			4500
Shenyang LIAONING RIBAO in Chinese			200
Shijiazhuang HEBEI RIBAO in Chinese			7090
Tianjin TIANJIN RIBAO in Chinese			1800

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
CLANDESTINE (Clandestine) Voice of National Salvation in Korean to South Korea	12660		
KOREA (NORTH) Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean	78440		
Pyongyang Television Service in Korean	350		
Pyongyang KCNA in English		126880	
Pyongyang KULLOJA in Korean			0
KOREA (SOUTH) Seoul Domestic Service in Korean	13410		
Seoul Television Service in Korean	62610		
Seoul YONHAP in English		48230	
Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean			5690
Seoul CHUANGANG ILBO in Korean			4850
Seoul Editorial Report on ROK Media Korean			2650
Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean			2000
Seoul KYONGHYANG SINMUN in Korean			6950
Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean			2340
Seoul SINTONG-A in Korean			0
Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English			68680
Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English			117040
Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean			13000
Seoul WOLGAN CHOSON in Korean			0
UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS Moscow International Service in Korean	2060		